



## **The Florida House of Representatives**

**For Immediate Release:**

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

**Contact:**

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-8148

### **House Health & Human Services Committee Examines Regulation of Controlled Substances**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The House Health & Human Services Committee, led by Chairman Robert Schenck (R-Spring Hill), today examined the pharmaceutical supply chain and studied the various ways Florida tries to regulate the distribution, prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.

“There is no question, that prescription drug abuse is a significant problem in our state,” said Representative Schenck. “With lives at stake, we must examine every step in the supply chain and every strategy intended to stop prescription drug abuse. We need to know what really works. Today’s meeting suggests that the current bureaucratic regulatory scheme is inadequate. Too much of today’s efforts are too little and too late.”

“And we have to ask if a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) could really be effective. If so, how? How does a tracking system that depends on criminals voluntarily reporting their unlawful activities stop the next drug-related death,” asked Representative Schenck. “Based on information shared today, we should be skeptical about prior evaluations of PDMPs. New research has found higher mortality in states with PDMPs. And all states have experienced increases in death rates since 1999, whether or not the state has a PDMP. We must find a front end solution. We need to stop the problem at its source and stop legalized drug dealing in Florida.”

“Moving forward, this committee will consider many alternatives and we will set our goal as solving this problem—not just tracking the symptoms,” concluded Representative Schenck.

###